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Message Text

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70
ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 NIC-01 SAJ-01 SAM-01

DRC-01 /163 W
---------- 028481
R 241555Z MAY 74
FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5610
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
USINT ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY LISBON

UNCLAS TUNIS 03197

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR
SUBJECT: CHATTI COMMENTS ON ARAB DEFENSE COUNCIL
MEETING AND NEXT AFRICAN SUMMIT

REF: CAIRO 3423

1. SUMMARY: ON RETURN FROM CAIRO ARAB DEFENSE COUNCIL MEETING FON MIN CHATTI TOLD PRESS MAY 23 DECISION TO CREATE MODERN ARMS INDUSTRIES IN ARAB COUNTRIES WAS IMPORTANT. HE SAID PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA HAD LONG RECOMMENDED SUCH ACTION AS ONLY WAY TO ARAB VICTORY. CHATTI SAID EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE WAS STUDIED IN COMMITTEE AND ARABS WERE NOW AWAITING EUROPEAN DECISION ON DIALOGUE IN JUNE. IN INTERVIEW HE GAVE IN CAIRO, REPORTED
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HERE, HE INDICATED NEXT AFRICAN SUMMIT AGENDA WOULD

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INCLUDE ARAB AFRICAN DIALOGUE, MIDDLE EAST SITUATION
AND LIBERATION OF PORTUGUESE TERRITORIES IN VIEW OF
NEW GOP POLICY OF AUTO-DETERMINATION. END SUMMARY.

2. FON MIN HABIB CHATTI ON RETURN TUNIS MAY 23 GAVE
PRESS STATEMENT AT AIRPORT ON RESULTS OF ARAB DEFENSE
COUNCIL MEETING. CHARACTERIZED MEETING AS BEING OF GREAT
IMPORTANCE, WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE DISCUSSION
ON CREATION OF MODERN ARMS INDUSTRIES IN ARAB COUN-
TRIES. RECALLED THAT PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA HAD CONSTANTLY
RECOMMENDED SUCH INDUSTRIES STRESSING THAT ARAB
COUNTRIES COULD NEVER ACHIEVE VICTORY UNTIL THEY
PRODUCED THEIR OWN ARMIES, WOULD REDUCE THEIR
DEPENDENCE ON OTHER COUNTRIES. HE SAID AN AGENCY
FOR CREATING SUCH INDUSTRIES WOULD BE GIVEN NECESSARY
FUNDS TO CARRY OUT STUDIES NEEDED. MILITARY EXPERTS
WILL MEET WITH THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ARAB
LEAGUE AND THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL FOR MILITARY
AFFAIRS TO STUDY A COMMON PROJECT.

3. ON EUROPEAN-ARAB DIALOGUE, CHATTI SAID THE COMMITTEE
RESPONSIBLE FOR ORGANIZING THE DIALOGUE HAD STUDIED A
WORK PROGRAM AND ESTABLISHED GENERAL POLITICAL AND
ECONOMIC PRINCIPLES FOR SUBSEQUENT DEBATE. HE INDICATED
COMMITTEE WAS AWAITING DECISION BY EUROPE NEXT JUNE
ON THIS SUBJECT.

4. WHILE IN CAIRO, CHATTI GAVE INTERVIEW TO EGYPTIAN
PRESS AGENCY (MEN) CARRIED HERE MAY 23 IN LA PRESSE IN
WHICH INTER ALIA HE COMMENTED ON NEXT AFRICAN SUMMIT.
HE SAID SUMMIT WILL DISCUSS MIDDLE EAST SITUATION AND
QUESTION OF ARAB-AFRICAN DIALOGUE WHICH HAS BEEN THE
FRAMEWORK FOR CREATION OF THE ARAB-AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT
BANK AND FUNDS FOR AIDING AFRICAN STATES HIT BY OIL
PRICE RISES. HE ALSO SAID SUMMIT WILL FIND ITSELF
FACED WITH NEW SITUATION ON LIBERATION OF PORTUGUESE
COLONIES IN LIGHT OF GOP READINESS TO RECOGNIZE RIGHT
OF AFRICAN PEOPLES TO SELF DETERMINATION. HE SAID
GOT HAS WELCOMED NEW POLICY OF CURRENT REGIME IN
PORTUGAL AND HOPES IT CONTINUES.
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